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torch of Freedom. This is symbolical; and it was in the belief that they would be free forever from the wars, oppressions and miseries of Europe that millions of refugees entered our harbors. In this belief they have hitherto lived and died; and they and their children and their children's children now constitute the citizenship of our great republic. If we join the League of Nations, which is really and actually an alliance for war, our presumably free citizens will be deprived of this protection. They will be compelled, whenever called upon by the European and Asiatic members of the League, to return to Europe in millions, as drafted soldiers, in order to fight and die upon European battlefields, in European quarrels, under the supreme command of European generals.

Thus is Liberty defeated.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

Chicago.

THE FIRST USE OF "UNITED STATES"

SIR,—I do not know if you care to discuss a statement made in the correspondence section of your magazine, but I would like to call attention to some points stated by the writer of the letter signed "H. A. D." in the current issue.

He states that the title, "United States of America," was first used in the Declaration of Independence. The proceedings of the Continental Congress show that on June 17, 1776, a report was presented by a committee, of which Jefferson was chairman, in which he referred to the Congress as the sole representative of "the United States of America." John Hancock crossed out the words "States of America" and wrote the word "Colonies" over them. The original document in Jefferson's handwriting is now in the Library of Congress, and a photostat copy of the page in question is in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, given by me. I reproduced the small section covering the above change as a cut, in my paper on *The True History of the Declaration of Independence*, read before the City History Society of Philadelphia, and published as part of the 2nd Volume of its proceedings. In the original (signed) copy of the Declaration, the word "united" occurs three times, and is always written with a small "u."

It is possible to quote from the founders of the nation every variety of opinion on the question of federalism or states-rights.

HENRY LEFFMANN.

Philadelphia, Pa.

OUR ALLEGED GODLESSNESS

SIR,—I have heard that rejection rather than selection is *the* problem for a magazine editor in the matter of articles offered. When I read John Burroughs' paper entitled, "Is Nature Without Design?" in your May issue I wondered what sort of genius loci guides the policy of your sanctum.

When you unlimber your verbal whips over the backs of those chiefly responsible for the war now ending your words betoken the

man of blood and force no less than moral sanity. And when you rise in your just wrath to excoriate and damn the Red Peril now planning murder and destruction in blessed America, you will doubtless find your mental resources and sparkling vocabulary equal to the duty.

But I submit, sir, those unenviable objects of your machine-gun attacks are merely the practical exponents of the morally destructive theories set forth in the paper of John Burroughs. One may run and read the lesson written big in bloody letters on many a page of history. My wonder is how such dreary and destructive vaporings of a discredited and decadent school of mock philosophers pass muster for the pages of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

Materialism—or, to be plain, Godlessness—is the curse and danger of the hour. Here we have it, then, naked and unashamed, because it walks beneath the shadow of a great name. Looking solely to the proximate interests a world in dangerous mood, should it be so? Let age be honored, but let not pitiable unbelief and all destroying materialism have a forum so mighty and a pulpit so high as the pages of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

ROBT. M. REILLY.
Sacred Heart Rectory, Castleton-on-Hudson, N. Y.

[THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, as our correspondent concedes, is a forum, wherein beliefs of many sorts, entertained by minds of various tendencies, are granted free play, for the stimulus and edification of our readers. That venerable and beloved student of the cosmos, John Burroughs, would, we fancy, be amazed and amused to hear himself denounced as a "materialist" and an encourager of the Red Peril. We think that if our reverend correspondent will read Mr. Burroughs' article again, in calmer mood, he will perceive that it represents merely the honest questioning of a candid mind confronting philosophical assumptions which it is unable to accept with that complacency sometimes to be discerned in "the bleat of evangelical orthodoxy."

—EDITOR.]